From: Massachusetts AFL-CIO
To: Blanca Alcaraz
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"For generations, unions have been the best path to the middle class for working people. The same is still true today." -- President Steven Tolman, Fitchburg Sentinel op-ed

You Made the Difference

The dust is beginning to settle on last week's elections and before we reflect on our victories, challenges, and the work that lies ahead, we must first pause and say THANK YOU. Thank you to our many grassroots partners and the community organizations who fought alongside us for a freer, more just Commonwealth. Thank you to the campaign volunteers and workers of our labor-endorsed candidates who poured endless hours into this fight. Thank you to the people of Massachusetts who voted on the side of justice for working people.

But thank you most of all to you -- our union family. Together, we knocked over 10,000 doors and made over 5,000 calls to union members and neighbors to talk about the issues and candidates and make sure that labor's voice was heard in this election. We educated, we inspired, we built towards a better future for workers -- thank you for making it happen!

Click here to read more about our victories this midterm!

Legislators Keep Locked Out Workers on the Line

While cold weather sets in and the Holiday season approaches, 1,200 National Grid workers are still locked out of their jobs without pay or health insurance. As the lockout continues into its fifth month, USW local presidents have turned to local public officials for support for their members. However, progress at the legislature is slow-moving and workers urgently need answers in regard to protecting their health insurance and unemployment benefits, and ultimately getting back to work.

With the multi-billion dollar company holding out, workers and their families are imploring policymakers to use their power to do what they can to support workers and end the lockout.

"Most of the people we've talked to support the workers, but real support is taking action, and that's what we needed today." - USW Local 12012 President John Buanopane

Read more from the Sentinel & Enterprise here.

Take Action to Support New Union Direct Care Workers

Act now in support of newly-organized direct care workers at the Arc of South Norfolk (AFSCME 93) in their fight to win a first union contract! The direct care staff have organized a call in/email campaign to the President and VP which culminates with a march on the boss. They are looking for support from their brothers and sisters across Massachusetts with that campaign. **Support their right to a fair contract by contacting the CEO and VP of the Arc of South Norfolk and showing that these workers have the full force of union members**

across the State. Click here for sample email and call script.

Support The Strike Fund - Solidarity

UNITE HERE Local 26 hotel workers have been on strike at Marriott hotels in Boston for over six weeks to fight for jobs that are enough to live on in the hospitality industry.

Striking workers are calling on Marriott to heed the call that One Job Should Be Enough. Enough to live in the cities where we work, to raise our families, and to retire with dignity.

Hotel workers don't have Marriott's billions to fight. **They need you**. Donate today to support the strike!

The Local 26 Strike Assistance Fund is dedicated to providing material support for workers on strike. Funds go towards workers' groceries, diapers, utility bills, mortgage payments, rent, car payments, etc. The fund is administered by worker leaders who are striking and Unite Here Local 26. Contributions will help strikers stay strong until we win!

"It's Going to Require A Collective Effort": Battling Addiction for Workers

"...Addiction is still stigmatized, and many employers aren't aware about the extent of the economic damage."

While many of us know about the personal struggle and pain of addiction, a new report from the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

and Rize Massachusetts looks specifically at the economic costs of the opiate crisis. Over the course of a year, the Commonwealth has lost over $8 billion in lost productivity from workers unable to function due to addiction.

The report highlights the prevalence of opioid addiction in many sectors of work, especially those which involve physically strenuous labor. The organization responsible for the report, Rize MA, is working to end the stigma of addiction and get people connected to the help they need for recovery.

November 30: Cushing Gavin Awards Dinner
December 1: North Shore Labor Council Women's Solidarity Breakfast

@UNITEHERE: “Corporations like @Marriott, now the largest hotel company in the world, are making millions of dollars in profit, while contributing to all of the problems for working-class & middle-class people in the SF Bay area.” - @CleveJones1 on the #MarriottStrike #1job

@AFLCIO: This is what happens when working people stand together to effect change in their communities. #1u Unions made the difference in the elections, see how:

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